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VIET MINH CAPABILITIES FOR CREATING URBAN DISORDER

The recent increase in Viet Minh terrorism and sabotage in areas under French-Vietnamese control points up the possibility that the Viet Minh may at some time attempt to supplement its conventional military operations with uprisings in Hanoi and Saigon.

The Viet Minh operates covert organizations in both cities, but engages in virtually no direct action at the present time. Several years ago grenade-throwing, incitement of mob action, and extortion were not uncommon. The diminution of direct Viet Minh action reflects to some degree increased efficiency of the Vietnamese police, but also the limited or adverse effects of intermittent terrorism. Viet Minh capabilities are much greater than the absence of activity would indicate.

It is possible that the Viet Minh, after spectacular territorial gains, might launch a dramatic terrorist effort in the French-held cities, hoping to tip the scale in favor of those elements in France who would accept a Viet Minh offer to negotiate.

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